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December 16, 2015

To: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
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From: Sachi A. Hamai
Chief Executive Officer

SECOND PROGRESS UPDATE ON THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION FOR CHILD PROTECTION RECOMMENDATIONS

On June 10, 2014, the Board of Supervisors adopted recommendations issued by the Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection (BRCCP) contained in its final report entitled *"The Road To Safety For Our Children."* At the same time, the Board adopted an analysis of the BRCCP recommendations concurrently issued by the Chief Executive Office (CEO). Since June 2014, much effort and activity have taken place to move the BRCCP recommendations forward.

On June 30, 2015, the Office of Child Protection (OCP) submitted its initial report updating the Board on progress made in implementing the BRCCP Recommendations. This report provides similar and more current information. The OCP will issue its next report in March 2016 covering the period commencing November 2015 through February 2017.

In preparing this update, the OCP worked closely with several County departments and other organizations including the Departments of Children and Family Services, Health Services, Mental Health, Probation, Public Health, and Public Social Services, CEO, District Attorney, and First 5 L.A. All updates are through October 31, 2015 unless otherwise stated. Attachment I provides a report of activities completed or underway for each BRCCP recommendation listed.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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REPORT OVERVIEW

In the report, recommendations are categorized into the four domain areas: Prevention, Safety, Permanency, and Well-Being. In addition, a fifth category designated as "Global Impact," was added to indicate a recommendation which materially impacts more than one domain area. The responses provided by Departments were reviewed by the OCP to determine the status of each project, ranging from "plan development in progress" to "implementation completed." Table 1 below summarizes the status of all BRCCP recommendations by domain area. Most of the recommendations in the "plan development yet to begin" category are administrative in nature and will likely be folded into the OCP strategic plan.

OCTOBER 2015 STATUS

*Table 1:
Status of BRCCP
Recommendations
by Domain Area*

DOMAIN AREA	Plan Development Yet to Begin	Plan Development in Progress	Plan Development Completed	Pre-Implementation Efforts Underway	Implementation in Progress	Implementation Completed	Total
Prevention	-	3	-	-	1	2	6
Safety	3	1	-	-	11	1	16
Permanency	1	1	-	1	3	3	9
Well-Being	1	2	-	1	4	-	8
Global Impact	1	3	-	-	7	6	17
County Administration	7	1	-	-	1	-	*9
Total	13	11	-	2	27	12	*65

*There are 66 recommendations, and the status for 65 recommendations are only shown as one will not be implemented.

PROGRESS FROM JUNE 2015

In comparison to the update provided last June, the status of 13 of the 65 BRCCP recommendations has changed. The status of 12 of these 13 recommendations has been promoted to "implementation in progress." As of October 2015, a total of 27 recommendations are at the "implementation in progress" stage (see Table 2), by comparison, only 16 recommendations were at the "implementation in progress" stage in June 2015. Progress occurred primarily in recommendations related to E-SCARS, the Children's Social Worker – Public Health Nurse Joint Visitation Initiative, and multi-departmental training. The total number of recommendations completed remains unchanged at 12.

Table 2: Change in Status of BRCCP Recommendations from June – October 2015

Status	Number of Recommendations (June 2015)	Change in Total (October 2015)	Revised Total (October 2015)
Planning Development Yet to Begin	15	-2	13
Plan Development in Progress	13	-2	11
Plan Completed	2	-2	-
Pre-Implementation Efforts Underway	7	-5	2
Implementation in Progress	16	+11	27
Implementation Completed	12	no change	12
Total	65	no change	65

Note: As progress is made in implementing the BRCCP recommendations, the number of recommendations at an early implementation stage will decrease, and the number of recommendations moving towards completion will increase.

If you have any questions, please contact Fesia Davenport at (213) 974-1186, or by email at fdavenport@ceo.lacounty.gov.

SAH:FD

VD:ljp

Attachment (1)

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
District Attorney
Sheriff
Child Support Services
Children and Family Services
Commission for Children and Families
Community and Senior Services
Health Services
Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect
Mental Health
Parks and Recreation
Probation
Public Health
Public Library
Public Social Services

Update by the Office of Child Protection on the BRCCP Recommendations - October 2015

Recommendation	Entity	STATUS UPDATE						Comment
		Planning Yet to Begin	Plan Development In Progress	Plan Developed	Pre-Implementation Efforts Underway	Implementation In Progress	Implementation Completed	
1. PREVENTION								
1.1 Oversee countywide prevention efforts.	OCP		✓					The OCP is working with First 5 LA, DPH and other agencies and entities to develop a countywide prevention plan . The plan will be developed in phases. Phase I will have a narrower focus than the overall plan. The conceptual design of Phase I focuses on identifying and addressing the reasons for referrals in high referral zip code areas in the County. Data is being gathered and analyzed to determine additional zip codes to include in Phase I. Meetings with DCFS Prevention and Aftercare Providers and community residents have been held or planned to better understand needs in these high referral areas. The plan will include strengthening communities and focusing on the five protective factors.
1.2 DPH and First 5 LA to jointly develop a comprehensive prevention plan to reduce the overall incidence of child abuse and neglect.	OCP, First 5 LA and DPH		✓					The OCP has taken the lead on this initiative working closely with First 5 LA and DPH. Additional departments and agencies have been added to the planning effort including DPSS, DCFS, members of the Children's Commission, L.A. Unified School District, and the Advancement Project. The prevention plan will focus on community based efforts aimed at strengthening communities, strengthening the five protective factors within families, and reforming the County's delivery of services which support and strengthen families. See also 1.1 above.
1.3 Prioritize access to Early Childhood Education learning programs for all children under the supervision of DCFS between ages 0 to 5.	DCFS						✓	DCFS has developed an automated Head Start Referral System. The system automatically searches for children who may be eligible for referral and allows DCFS social workers to electronically refer children to Head Start and other early childhood education (ECE) programs throughout Los Angeles County. The system was developed with the assistance of the Los Angeles County Office of Education Head Start Program, Long Beach Head Start, LAUSD, Child Care Resource Center, Options Resource and Referral agency, and organizations throughout the County. To date 7,000 children have been referred since the inception of the Head Start Referral System.
1.4 Pair a Public Health Nurse with a DCFS social worker in child abuse or neglect investigations of all children from birth to age two.	DCFS, DPH, DMH, DHS, CoCo, CEO/OCP						✓	This initiative will be implemented in phases. Joint visits under Phase I commenced in August 2015 and includes the Martin Luther King, Jr. Medical Hub and the Compton and Vermont-Corridor DCFS Regional Offices. Joint visits are being conducted and referrals are being made to the Medical Hubs when appropriate. OCP and all involved departments will be issuing a report covering the first 90 days of Phase I. This data will be used to inform further roll out of this initiative to other areas of the County.

Update by the Office of Child Protection on the BRCCP Recommendations - October 2015

Recommendation	Entity	STATUS UPDATE						Comment
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1.5 DPH's evidence-based home visit service should be made available to all children under age one seen at a Medical Hub.			✓					OCP will work with DPH and DHS to ensure that medical hub staff are trained on home visitation programs in order to identify those families that may be eligible. The eligible population seen at the hubs will likely be small. As such, OCP will also incorporate the expansion of and access to home visitation services into its prevention plan.
1.6 Conduct assessments of each medical hub to identify each hub's strengths and weaknesses.	DHS						✓	The findings of the recommended medical hub assessment were issued by DHS on January 9, 2015 and adopted on January 13, 2015.

Agencies: County Counsel (CoCo), Departments of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Health Services (DHS), Mental Health (DMH), Public Health (DPH), Public Social Services (DPSS), District Attorney's Office (DAO), First 5 Los Angeles (First 5 LA), University Consortium for Children and Families (UCCF), Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN), Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

2. SAFETY								
2.1 E-SCARS should be utilized fully by all relevant agencies and receive the necessary support to be well-maintained and enhanced.	DCFS, DA					✓		The DAO has secured or is securing written agreements to ensure that E-SCARS is fully utilized and DCFS is working on enhancements to the E-SCARS system. Specifically, the DAO has established a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with all relevant departments (DAO, Sheriff, and DCFS). The DAO is circulating and securing signatures for a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with law enforcement agencies within Los Angeles County. The MOU and MOA will reinforce the function and accountability of law enforcement, DCFS and DAO. Regarding E-SCARS, the Board previously approved the release of \$764,000 to DCFS for system enhancements and ongoing E-SCARS support and maintenance. DCFS continues with its redesign of the E-SCARS system, which will provide for a "High Risk" fatality flag and a "Child Fatality" flag. The redesign is expected to be fully operational by the Spring of 2017.
2.2 Training of all levels of law enforcement must be enhanced to include: sufficient initial and recurrent training on child abuse and E-SCARS.	DA					✓		The DAO has completed the expansion of its E-SCARS unit. The DAO has appointed a prosecutor to serve as Deputy-in-Charge of the newly expanded unit and has hired three additional paralegals who will support the E-SCARS Unit. The Deputy-in-Charge will train law enforcement and prosecutors on using E-SCARS, including cross-reporting. With additional resources in place, an increase in DAO audits of E-SCARS is contemplated. In addition, the E-SCARS Unit can now fully focus on its oversight of response and information sharing by the involved agencies.

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2.3 DCFS should create an adaptive training process for social workers and their supervisors that consists of a continuous learning environment akin to a teaching hospital. It should also conduct a job audit of social workers to determine what can be done differently or by others to address social worker workload.	DCFS					✓		In August 2013, DCFS implemented a new training program for new staff. The training is based on a teaching hospital model that involves simulation training. In August 2014, DCFS implemented mandatory training for its Supervising Social Workers. In 2009, DCFS conducted a job audit of clerical duties to determine which job functions should and could be performed by clerical staff. The audit was partially implemented. DCFS will revisit this job audit since policies, processes and procedures have changed since 2009.
2.4 Review research findings from Emily Putnam Hornstein, Ph.D and others on risk factors for children at risk of a child fatality due to abuse and neglect as well as data from the Interagency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect.	DCFS						✓	Dr. Putnam-Hornstein's work was reviewed and conversations were held between DCFS and Ms. Putnam-Hornstein regarding data and risk modeling. DCFS is an active participant in ICAN's workgroups and is familiar with their work. Also, DCFS currently monitors high risk cases associated with AB 109 releases, Sex Offender Registry, etc.
2.5 Using both case reviews and research findings, identify specific characteristics that distinguish children who have positive outcomes versus those who are subsequently severely injured or killed. Specifically identify key risk factors that are present in cases resulting in child fatalities.	DCFS					✓		DCFS Risk Management Division is currently updating their Critical Incident Fatality Tracking (CIFT) system which is used to capture trends related to critical incidents and fatalities.
2.6 Conduct a review of all child fatalities due to abuse and neglect within the past three years of children served in the Department of Health Services medical hub, DCFS, Probation, DPSS, by a DPH public health nurse or home visiting program or by a First 5 LA home visiting program.	OCP	✓						A single entity should collect and analyze this information in order to implement this recommendation. This recommendation should be considered as part of the BRCCP recommended commission study which will be part of the CEO's report on the governance structure.
2.7 Conduct a thorough review of all open cases in the above departments.	DCFS	✓						OCP must work with the relevant departments to develop a plan for the recommended review including identifying criteria for cases to be reviewed and what specifically should be reviewed in each case. Due to the large volume of cases that may be reviewed, a technological tool might be helpful in identifying cases to review.

Agencies: County Counsel (CoCo), Departments of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Health Services (DHS), Mental Health (DMH), Public Health (DPH), Public Social Services (DPSS), District Attorney's Office (DAO), First 5 Los Angeles (First 5 LA), University Consortium for Children and Families (UCCF), Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN), Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

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2.8 Continually measure progress against measures of success identified (in Section III, p. 14).	OCP, DCFS, and potentially other departments and entities		✓			✓		This recommendation requires two levels of measurement - At the DCFS service delivery/youth outcomes level and at the Countywide systems outcomes level. DCFS monitors performance using a monthly STATS process against Federal, State, and County performance indicators. The OCP is working with the Children's Commission to develop a comprehensive set of outcomes measures that builds upon relevant information from other departments who also serve children within the other domains of the continuum, e.g. well-being.
2.9 Modify access to and delivery of key services including; health, mental health; domestic violence; substance abuse treatment; housing for adults; home visiting and prevention supports for children, youth and families. These services will need to be prioritized for those at highest risk of later fatalities.	DCFS					✓		This recommendation speaks to an overhaul of how numerous services are accessed and delivered. A substantive update cannot be provided for this recommendation until the OCP has finalized its strategic plan. Also, this recommendation will likely be impacted by other efforts in the County related to health integration and homelessness.
2.10 Equipped with specific case information and research findings that identify children at greater risk, proactively engage staff in the above serving departments to address risk factors immediately, thereby mitigating the likelihood of a child fatality.	DCFS					✓		DCFS staff regularly participate in DCFS training academy sessions which includes Lessons Learned to enhance critical thinking and help identify and improve practice around risk factors. As OCP initiatives related to multi-departmental safety training proceed, OCP will work with relevant departments in order to engage staff around identified risk factors.
2.11 Utilize a technological solution such as E-SCARS that crosses departments to ensure that information is shared and staff alerted when potentially fatal risk factors are present.	DCFS					✓		DCFS contracted with a vendor to develop a proof of concept for a risk modeling tool (i.e. data mining and analytical tool) that can be used for early identification and intervention in cases based on high risk levels. After validating the proof of concept, DCFS is developing a Statement of Work to procure services to develop a risk assessment tool. See also 2.13 and 2.14 below.
2.12 All Sheriff's deputies and local law enforcement agencies within the County of Los Angeles must cross-report every child abuse allegation to DCFS, as required by State law. In addition, it should be documented that a cross-report was made, for example, in a police report or law enforcement log.	DA					✓		The DAO continues to train all law enforcement agencies within the County of Los Angeles on E-SCARS cross-reporting. With the recent expansion of the E-SCARS Unit, the DAO can now provide recurring trainings to law enforcement agencies, as well as address any deficiencies in their data entry into E-SCARS.
2.13 The District Attorney's Office should increase its oversight of the law enforcement response and sharing of information, including cross-reporting between DCFS and law enforcement agencies, to ensure that each agency carries out its mandated investigative response.	DA					✓		The DAO has hired three additional paralegals to support the newly expanded E-SCARS unit. The paralegals will audit law enforcement responses to SCARS. They will monitor the timeliness of law enforcement responses and any follow up investigations. As a result, paralegals can seek to cure deficiencies and discrepancies in the SCARS, which will ensure that law enforcement leads an independent and parallel investigation to DCFS.

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2.14 The County should develop an early warning system within E-SCARS to alert DCFS and law enforcement of high-risk allegations of abuse as early as possible. A convergence of high-risk factors would alert supervisors of high-risk situations and allow them to take appropriate action.	DA and DCFS					✓		<p>The E-SCARS "High Risk Allegations" functionality will be incorporated in the 2015-16 redesign of E-SCARS, which is currently under development. The DAO will monitor the incorporation of the E-SCARS "High Risk Allegations" to safeguard that such an assessment tool does not conflict with crime charging or investigation standards. In addition, a "Child Fatality" flag will accompany a SCAR when a child fatality has occurred. This will alert all E-SCARS users to take action appropriate within their respective offices.</p> <p>Prior to submitting the SCAR, the DCFS supervisor will mark a newly created "High Alert" box if the referral meets either Child Fatality, Near Fatality, Critical Incidents, Abduction and Media Alert criteria. This process and functionality will be in addition to the current E-SCARS functionality.</p>
2.15 The Board should continue its active oversight of DCFS' strategic plan by adding a requirement for regular reporting of specific safety related outcomes, including recurrence of maltreatment within six months of a previous incident, maltreatment rates in out-of-home placement, and reentry into care within six months of a permanent placement.	OCP/DCFS		✓					Once the OCP strategic plan is developed and Countywide outcome measures adopted, the OCP intends to conduct regular meetings with public and private members of the County's child protection network where data (including DCFS' data) will be regularly shared and discussed in order to assess whether children are safer, and how children and families are faring in the County's child protection network across the entire continuum of care.
2.16 The County can measurably and immediately improve child safety by requiring all departments to target resources and high quality services, including prevention services, toward children under the age of five.			✓					As a first step, OCP will incorporate into its strategic plan, specific roles (including work related to prevention) for child and family serving Departments serving the same population as DCFS or those children and families at risk of coming to the attention of DCFS.

Agencies: County Counsel (CoCo), Departments of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Health Services (DHS), Mental Health (DMH), Public Health (DPH), Public Social Services (DPSS), First 5 Los Angeles (First 5 LA), University Consortium for Children and Families (UCCF), Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN), Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

3. PERMANENCY								
3.1 A child's funding should be determined by the needs of the child, not whether placement is with a relative or a foster family. The CEO and DCFS should examine the County's ability to waive federal eligibility rules and its accompanying funding flexibility to strengthen support for children in out of home care.	DCFS, CEO/OCP						✓	<p>The issue of a child's funding has been addressed. In March 2015, the County opted into the State Approved Relative Caregiver (ARC) Program for eligible relative caregivers. DCFS and DPSS launched the program on June 1, 2015. Relative caregivers started receiving payments in June. The process is ongoing and continuing.</p>

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3.2 The County, through the Auditor-Controller and the CEO, should review the current mix of county licensing and supports for foster homes and approval and supports for kin, to assess the inconsistent performance and resource allocation, and to determine whether a more uniform streamlined system would be more effective. The Commission believes consideration of contracting out this process is warranted.	OCP, Auditor-Controller					✓		The State Department of Social Services (CDSS) will pre-empt the field relative to licensing and approval with the implementation of the Resource Family Approval Program. On October 15, 2015, CDSS issued written directives governing its Resource Family Approval Program. The purpose of this program "is to implement a unified, family-friendly, and child-centered resource family approval process to replace the existing multiple processes for licensing foster family homes and approving relatives and non-relative extended family members as foster care providers, and approving families for legal guardianship or adoption." Statewide implementation of this program is authorized for all California counties effective July 1, 2017. On the issue of supports for relative caregivers, please see 3.1 above and 3.5 below.
3.3 DCFS should develop a computerized, real-time system to identify available and appropriate placements based on the specific needs of the child.	DCFS					✓		In August 2014, DCFS operationalized an enhanced Foster Care Search System (FCSS). Phase I of the FCSS has two major modules: 1. One component of the FCSS automates the formerly paper-based child placement process and provides a mobile application for workers and supervisors to confirm when a child has been placed in or removed from a bed - thereby providing more timely information as to bed availability. 2. Another component of the FCSS allows caregivers, group homes, and foster family agencies to manage their respective profiles. This module enables caregivers to review and verify home profiles, provide updates on home contact information; and enables FFAs to update their information online. Enhancement of the FCSS will be an ongoing process.
3.4 The County and DCFS should utilize its Title IV-E waiver dollars to ensure parity of funding for children placed with kin to that of children placed in foster family settings.	DCFS						✓	See 3.1 above.
Agencies: County Counsel (CoCo), Departments of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Health Services (DHS), Mental Health (DMH), Public Health (DPH), Public Social Services (DPSS), District Attorney's Office (DAO), First 5 Los Angeles (First 5 LA), University Consortium for Children and Families (UCCF), Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN), Service Employees International Union (SEIU)								
3.5 A child's services should be based on the needs of the child, not placement with a relative or a foster family. The CEO and DCFS should ensure that relative caregivers are more fully supported.	DCFS/CEO				✓			In order to better support relative caregivers, DCFS intends to contract out home assessment and supportive services for relatives. Proposed contracted relative caregiver service components include: orientations, procurement of necessary supplies and services, emergency needs, support groups and training, educational advocacy and legal assistance. DCFS is developing the Statement of Work.

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3.6 The Board should call for an independent analysis of non-relative foster family recruitment efforts in the County to determine how the system can be more efficient and effective. The analysis should use sound data to address a range of questions, including whether there are safe and appropriate homes in each SPA to meet the needs of foster youth.	DCFS					✓		The University of California Los Angeles recently issued a final report of its analysis of Los Angeles County's current process for recruiting resource parents. The report includes several recommendations to improve resource parent recruitment, retention, and for the placement of foster children. The recommendations require review and approval, and for approved recommendations, implementation plans. OCP will work DCFS, Children's Commission, and others, including philanthropy to begin the work of identifying and implementing the recommendations as appropriate.
3.7 DCFS should involve foster youth in the rating and assessment of foster homes.	DCFS						✓	DCFS has solicited and received input of foster youth in its rating and assessment of foster homes. The "Foster Youth Satisfaction Survey" was completed and posted on the DCFS website. Effective January 2015 during the annual re-evaluation and quality assurance review process of placement facilities, DCFS will interview a sample of placed children to obtain their input regarding the quality of care and services provided by a Foster Family Agency or Group Home. This survey is web-based, ongoing and results will be reported monthly.
3.8 The Board should require regular reporting on the frequency of missed monthly social worker visits, the wait times for children in offices or at the Command Post needing placement, the length of time for kin caregivers to be approved, and the number of foster homes recruited.	DCFS/OCP		✓					DCFS is developing a BRCCP data package which will include the information/data requested. The BRCCP data package will be placed on the SITE (i.e., DCFS intranet) so that it is easily accessible and available to staff. In addition to DCFS' efforts, OCP intends to conduct regular meetings with stakeholders in the County's child protection network to share relevant data that will help inform stakeholders and improve outcomes for children and families.
3.9 The Board should establish specific benchmarks for improvement in the measures identified (in 2.15 and 3.8) and, as warranted. This should be done in collaboration with the CEO and DCFS.		✓						

Agencies: County Counsel (CoCo), Departments of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Health Services (DHS), Mental Health (DMH), Public Health (DPH), Public Social Services (DPSS), District Attorney's Office (DAO), First 5 Los Angeles (First 5 LA), University Consortium for Children and Families (UCCF), Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN), Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

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4. WELL-BEING								
4.1 The Board should issue a clear mandate that non-pharmacological interventions are best practice with children wherever feasible. The Board should work with the Juvenile Court to fully implement and measure compliance with this mandate.	DMH, Dependency Court, and OCP		✓					In November 2015, OCP will issue a report to the Board laying out Phase I of a comprehensive county-wide plan regarding psychotropic medication and foster/probation youth. The plan will address three major areas: 1) service delivery reform; 2) quality control and heightened monitoring; and 3) strengthening our administrative tools that drive our administrative processes and data analysis.
4.2 The County should establish mechanisms for cross-system education-related coordination, collaboration, and communication.	DCFS, Probation, Schools, OCP	✓						The County has a structure in place to address this recommendation - The Education Coordinating Council (ECC). The ECC has gone without a full-time director for some time and its meetings (and agenda) has been reduced to twice per year. The ECC Director has been hired and will begin work in November. The ECC Director will work with the ECC for the cross-system education-related coordination, collaboration and communication referenced in this recommendation.
4.3 The County should ensure that school stability and child safety are improved through Countywide expansion of the pilot program that has been proven effective in the Gloria Molina Foster Youth Education Program.	OCP, DCFS					✓		Expansion of this program will necessarily impacted by the recent passage of the Legislation Control Funding Formula (LCFF). The County must partner with local school districts to leverage resources provided by the LCFF and ensure that there is no duplication of effort between this program and the LCFF. The Education Coordinating Council will be tasked with working with DCFS to determine how to best expand the program while simultaneously assessing how LCFF funds can be used to assist in this effort.
4.4 All children entering placement and children under age one whose cases are investigated by DCFS should be screened at a Medical Hub.	DCFS, DPH, DMH, DHS, CoCo, CEO/OCP					✓		The named Departments recently implemented Phase I of this initiative where children under investigation under age two (not one) are referred to a medical hub when medically necessary. Nurses were hired in July 2015 and joint visits began in August 2015. OCP will be issuing a status report and preliminary assessment to the Board in November which will cover the first 90 days of the project.
4.5 Children placed in out-of-home care or served by DCFS in their homes should have ongoing health care provided by physicians at the Medical Hubs.	DCFS, DHS				✓			In the BRCCP Final Report, this recommendation was paired with recommendation 4.4 above. This recommendation will be addressed once the nurse-social worker joint visit initiative is launched.

Agencies: County Counsel (CoCo), Departments of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Health Services (DHS), Mental Health (DMH), Public Health (DPH), Public Social Services (DPSS), District Attorney's Office (DAO), First 5 Los Angeles (First 5 LA), University Consortium for Children and Families (UCCF), Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN), Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

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4.6 DPH must be held directly responsible for substance abuse treatment for high-risk teen mothers.	DPH		✓					DPH's grant from First 5 LA used to fund this program terminated June 30, 2015. This grant funded the co-located Substance Abuse Navigators at all DCFS Regional Offices to refer and link DCFS involved parents/caregivers, with children aged 0 – 5 years, to substance abuse treatment. DPH-SAPC will use Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant funding to extend funding through December 2015. Under the proposed program, services will be expanded to include more families by removing the child(ren)s' age restrictions and the expansion of services includes high risk teen mothers (aged 12 - 17 years) and pregnant teens. DCFS and DPH will work together to identify permanent funding for this program.
4.7 As part of performance-based contracting, mental health treatments for teens and transitioning youth must incorporate trauma-focused assessments and treatments, developmental status, ethnicity, sexual identify, and vulnerability to self-harming behaviors.	DMH					✓		The Department will be implementing a universal suicide risk assessment tool and will ensure these changes are made in conjunction with the self-harm category, the DSM 5 new diagnosis coding system (in which there are different information related to non suicidal self-injury), and the ICD-10-CM (in which there are several diagnosis codes for self-harm which will allow for a valid secondary diagnosis). The revised forms will be released with a planned implementation date of October 1, 2015. Implementation of all revisions will allow for tracking of the responses through the EHR system. The self-harming behavior screening and assessment training was incorporated into the Psychiatric Diagnostic Training curriculum in July 2015; which occurs every three (3) months.
4.8 Children age five and under in the child welfare system must have access to age appropriate mental health services.	DMH					✓		Training is ongoing. The University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at Children's Hospital LA (UCEDD/CHLA) provided a summary report of participant data collected for the FY 2014-15 Birth to Five Core Training Series. UCEDD/CHLA provided training to clinicians in the DMH Provider Network through a contract with DMH. Another training contract with UCEDD/CHLA was approved. UCEDD staff will implement a Birth to Five Mental Health Core Training Series for FY 2015-16. The SOW requires specific learning objectives for each training session and submission of quarterly reports. During the summer period of June through August 2015, DMH Family and Community Partnerships, and CSOC staff provided a series of trainings on the ICARE Assessment Form for DMH Specialized Foster Care (SFC) and contract providers in Service Area 3 and for countywide Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PC IT) providers. A total of four trainings were conducted for a combined total of 82 participants.

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Update by the Office of Child Protection on the BRCCP Recommendations - October 2015

Recommendation	Entity	STATUS UPDATE						Comment
		Planning Yet to Begin	Plan Development in Progress	Plan Developed	Pre-Implementation Efforts Underway	Implementation in Progress	Implementation Completed	
5. GLOBAL IMPACT								
5.1 Oversee a Joint Strategic Planning Process to create a comprehensive, child-centered strategic plan that is data driven, informed by best practices, and connects all child welfare services in the County, and articulates measurable goals and time frames.	OCP		✓					OCP has begun the process to develop a countywide strategic plan. Between May 18, 2015 and June 11, 2015, the OCP held five stakeholder convenings (one in each Supervisorial district) involving over 400 county staff, contracted providers, schools, faith organizations, advocates, philanthropists and other community based organizations to solicit assistance in developing objectives that could potentially be included in the countywide strategic plan. Additional convenings were held for foster youth, relative caregivers, and foster parents.
5.2 Establish a Los Angeles County Office of Child Protection (OCP), with Countywide authority to coordinate, plan, and implement one unified child protection system.	OCP						✓	The Office of Child Protection was operationalized in February 2015.
5.3 Oversee implementation of the Commission's recommendations upon adoption by the Board.	OCP					✓		The OCP will oversee the implementation of the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission.
5.4 In collaboration with the Board, identify the services currently provided by the Departments of Health Services, Children and Family Services, Public Health, Probation, Mental Health, Public Social Services, First 5 LA, the Los Angeles Office of Education, the Domestic Violence Council, and the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles deemed as crucial to ensuring child safety. The accompanying budget and staff resources also should be identified.	CEO						✓	On October 20, 2014, a Board memo was issued by the CEO's Office providing the recommended information.
5.5 Departments and agencies closely involved in the identification, prevention, protection, and treatment of at-risk children should be mandated to participate in cross-training with DCFS employees. At a minimum, this interdisciplinary approach should include law enforcement, DMH, DHS, DPH, the	OCP/DCFS					✓		DCFS continues to offer and expand upon training in partnership with all of the agencies listed above. Additionally, OCP is working with DCFS, Probation, DMH and other partners (including law enforcement) to implement multi-departmental training that includes training along with community partners.
5.6 DCFS, DMH, and DHS should train personnel, both in-house and in contract agencies, on how to most effectively work with the age 0-5 population, their families, and caretakers.	DCFS, DMH, DHS					✓		Training on the 0-5 population continues to be offered to DCFS staff and some of these trainings have been videotaped and made available to all DCFS staff electronically. Additionally, DCFS has partnered with San Diego Regional Training Academy/PCTWA who are working to complete and post online the eLearning on Trauma.
5.7 Greater disclosure, clarity, and inclusion should be a routine component of community engagement from planning to review of outcomes and allocation of resources.						✓		Since it was operationalized, the OCP has conducted no less than ten stakeholder convenings and participated in other non-OCP sponsored meetings related to child welfare in Los Angeles County. OCP believes that ongoing communication and community engagement is an essential key to unifying the child protection network in the county and models this behavior in its work. OCP will host regular meetings with stakeholders regarding topics of importance and relevance to child protection.

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5.8 A first step is the re-establishment of community advisory councils that are attached directly to each DCFS Regional Office. These advisory councils would be co-chaired by the community and its respective Regional Office. In the past, SPA 6 effectively used this model in all three of its offices.	DCFS					✓		The DCFS Directors' Advisory Council members are helping to reestablish the DCFS Regional Advisory Councils. The Advisory Council has identified the re-establishment of local Community Advisory Councils as one of their three primary focus efforts. The Director's Advisory Council has agreed to act as liaisons to the various local councils; and being active in meetings at the local level when appropriate. On December 2014, Regional Offices began implementation of the enhancements to the Regional Community Advisory Councils and a monthly reporting process.
5.9 The Board should adopt clear outcome measures which should include those set forth above. (p. 14 of BRCCP report)	OCP		✓					OCP is working with the Children's Commission to develop outcome measures that includes, but is not limited to, DCFS-specific child safety measures. The idea is to establish other measurable outcomes that will help drive other domains with the continuum of care including prevention and well-being and that will implicate the work of other County departments.
5.10 The OCP should regularly assess the County's progress and report its findings directly to the Board. The findings should be reviewed regularly at Board meetings.	OCP					✓		The OCP will provide its first update on the BRCCP recommendations in June 2015. Once outcome measures are established, the OCP will regularly assess progress and report to the Board.
5.11 Establish and evaluate measurable outcomes as part of the annual planning and budget allocation process to facilitate constant improvement, generalize successful and discontinue unsatisfactory practices.	OCP	✓						Work is underway to develop measurable outcomes.
5.12 The UCCF should submit an annual report on outcomes that are aligned with the County's vision.	DCFS/OCP						✓	The UCCF submitted its 2013-14 report. A review and analysis of the report is warranted.
5.13 The Oversight Team must develop a dashboard to provide monthly report to the Board.	OCP						✓	The Transition Team developed a matrix to provide updates to the Board.
5.14 Capacity-building experts, including universities, should work with community-based organizations to enhance skills in grant application and administration, evidence-based practice, program design, and evaluation.	DCFS and other relevant departments						✓	On March 2, 2015 all the DCFS contractors were informed about an upcoming training that is offered by the Office of Small Business; the training was held on March 13, 2015. The trainings focused on assisting all attendees on how to successfully submit a proposal for a Request for Proposal. This recommendation, however, is larger than DCFS. DCFS should as much as possible focus on its core mission.

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5.15 Performance-based contracting on agreed-upon outcome measures by DCFS, other appropriate departments and the contracting agencies for children and families should be adopted, rewarding contracting agencies that achieve better results for the children they serve.	DCFS					✓		DCFS plans to release solicitations consistent with this recommendation as early as the end of September 2015. Conversations have yet to be had with other child and family serving departments but there are plans to do so.
5.16 The County needs to develop a clear, multi-system data linkage and sharing plan that would operate as a single, coordinated system. (Include: DCFS, DPSS, DMH, DPH, Probation, LACOE, and school districts at minimum. Also, partner with universities).	OCP		✓					The County has made progress in this area. OCP is currently working with County Counsel to finalize a multi-departmental data-sharing protocol. An automated tool will be developed to provide information to DCFS Emergency Response Social Workers investigating allegations of abuse or neglect. This is a very important first step in the development of a multi-system, data linkage and sharing plan.
5.17 The CEO and Juvenile Court should co-lead the creation of a Countywide confidentiality policy regarding a child's records and court proceedings to allow sharing of information across relevant departments, agencies, persons, and the Court to serve the needs of the child and increase the transparency of the system.	OCP						✓	The June 2014 CEO report indicated that California law already enables information sharing across relevant agencies and the Court for the purposes of coordinating services to best meet the needs of the child. The reports also mentioned the need for training County staff so that they understand the data sharing provisions and the various statutes that enable the sharing of data. This can be addressed in the efforts related to multi-departmental sharing.

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6. COUNTY ADMINISTRATION								
6.1 A comprehensive service delivery system, including prevention programs that stop child maltreatments before it starts.	OCP		✓					This all encompassing recommendation speaks to an overhaul of how various services are provided. A substantive update cannot be provided for this recommendation until after the OCP has finalized the Countywide strategic plan.
6.2 All relevant County entities to work together and with the Community.	OCP					✓		This fundamental concept permeates much of the work of the OCP as it works with County departments, other governmental entities, contracted providers, faith based providers, philanthropy. This recommendation speaks to a continuous way of doing business together.
6.3 Joint strategic planning and blended funding streams.	OCP	✓						The strategic planning process is underway. When appropriate, funding streams will be blended when necessary, and otherwise permissible under appropriate statutory or regulatory authority.
6.4 Data-driven programs and evaluations.	OCP	✓						OCP recognizes the value and power of data. The OCP is committed to data driven decision making and recognizes that evaluations can help the County understand which programs, services, and interventions should be continued and which should be discontinued.
6.5 Have clear oversight and authority over financial and staffing resources from all relevant departments, as delegated by the Board.	OCP/CEO							Please see the analysis contained in the CEO's Board report dated June 10, 2014, which was adopted by the Board. On pages 10 - 14, the report outlines statutory barriers to transferring to OCP "oversight and authority" over various County departments. This recommendation was not adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

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6.6 Institute an annual Countywide budget review process that examines all proposed, present, and past resource allocations and align them with the goals of the Countywide strategic plan, as well as coordinate relevant funding streams from various departments.	OCP/CEO	✓						
6.7 Serve as the repository of and review all recommendations related to the protection of children. Oversee implementation of appropriate recommendations.	OCP	✓						
6.8 Review existing County commissions and, with the Board, streamline them, as appropriate.	OCP	✓						Defer to CEO's Governance Report (July 2015) and work with the CEO to assist in review.
6.9 ICAN should be removed from within DCFS and exist as an independent entity.	DCFS, OCP	✓						
6.10 An annual overview of the state of the field of child welfare, presented to the Board by external experts.	OCP	✓						

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